



Feasibility Study on Building a Cross Strait Xiamen Kinmen Exchange Demonstration Zone

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Abstract— As outlined in the CPC Central Committee and State Council's September 2023 opinions on supporting Fujian in exploring new pathways for cross-strait integration and building a demonstration zone, it is clear that Fujian will lead future peaceful reunification and integration interactions across the Taiwan Strait[1]. Moreover, Taiwan's leadership election candidates have emphasized Kinmen's construction as a precursor to cross-strait interaction, underscoring that Kinmen, as the closest link, will be the most critical area for future-oriented cross-strait exchanges. This paper therefore analyzes key exchange project types, delves into the candidates' political views, and examines the feasibility of establishing centralized key projects and interactive demonstration points. With the youth era as the driving theme, the focus areas include jointly building infrastructure, expanding the convenience of private exchanges, co-developing major tourism demonstration projects, adjusting and setting up demonstration points, and exploring the construction of interactive areas for ethnic minorities. This leads to exploring the feasibility of jointly building Kinmen and Xiamen into 'two-door' cross-strait exchange demonstration residences. Such an approach not only integrates and explores the economic and social development of various ethnic groups across the Strait and enhances cross-strait exchanges and integration, but also highlights the significance of characteristic cultural industries for cross-strait integration and development. The findings are expected to provide a reference for interactions between relevant authorities on both sides of the Strait and non-governmental organizations.

Keywords— Mini Three-Link Transportation, Pingtan Experimental Zone, Exchange demonstration zone, Co management of two places, Cross Strait Relations.

I. INTRODUCTION

Kinmen is 210 kilometers from the main island of Taiwan Province, whereas it is a mere 1,800 meters — equivalent to about 2 kilometers — from Xiamen. This essentially determines the extraordinary sensitivity of Kinmen residents to changes in the Taiwan Strait situation, and at the same time establishes the important role Kinmen plays in cross-strait relations. Looking back at the history of cross-strait relations, Kinmen has witnessed many significant historical moments. It has been a front line of exchanges and conflicts since the division of the two sides, yet it is also believed to have the opportunity to become a platform for the peaceful development of cross-strait relations. Kinmen is

situated in an excellent location. Although its area is not large, it holds abundant resources and boasts diverse cultural atmospheres and historical heritage. Apart from some elements inherited from ancient Minnan culture, it also possesses a unique culture of its own. From serving as a war-front fortress during the Chinese Civil War to its current role as a key player in the "three links," Kinmen is both a witness to history and a transmitter of culture. It is evident that Kinmen's favorable geographical location and cultural richness are conducive to cross-strait interactions and development.

Whether the youth strata across the strait can integrate concerns the destiny of the next generation, further highlighting the importance of youth

exchanges. At the current stage, cross-strait relations generally exhibit a cooling of official and semi-official contacts, while non-governmental exchanges and interactions remain frequent and close. Under such circumstances, releasing goodwill through the power of youth would bring substantial benefits to cross-strait development. Although Kinmen's excellent geographical location provides important support for cross-strait exchanges in the five aspects of personnel, goods, information, finance, and culture, and it also has strong advantages in enhancing cross-strait economic development and reducing tensions, without a comprehensive vision and proper supporting measures and policies, development efforts may appear rather weak. From the existing framework, the central government has already introduced policies to support Fujian Province in expanding and accelerating exchanges. The future main body of exchanges will depend on the degree of cooperation from Taiwan Province, which is largely tied to the outcome of next year's elections.

We are now witnessing a new peak in the desire for exchanges among residents on both sides, while a new tacit political understanding is gradually emerging. At a time when election policies for the leader of the Taiwan region are being introduced, and with the dual policy support from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council for Fujian Province, this study believes that future policy orientation and intensity should attempt to take the power of the youth generation as the main body, leverage the unique geographical advantages of Xiamen and Kinmen, and outline a more feasible exchange concept along with corresponding supporting measures, hoping thereby to effectively enhance the feasibility of cross-strait cooperation and promote interactions between the youth generations across the strait. The main directions are: strengthening the preservation and inheritance of Kinmen's unique battlefield culture and folk culture (Wind Lion God), and encouraging and promoting cultural and creative entrepreneurship and youth entrepreneurship among the young generation, so that the transmission of Kinmen's special culture can flow. During interactions between youth across the strait, the mutual exchange of diverse cultures can enable Kinmen to achieve, in a true sense, the five cross-

strait flows — the flow of people, the flow of goods, the flow of capital, the flow of finance, and the flow of culture — thus serving as a pioneer for the peaceful development of cross-strait relations.

II. THE KEY TO THE XIAMEN-KINMEN TWIN GATES

2.1 Policy Focus

"We have put forward the overall strategy for resolving the Taiwan question in the new era, promoted cross-strait exchanges and cooperation, resolutely opposed 'Taiwan independence' separatist acts, resolutely opposed interference by external forces, and firmly grasped the initiative and dominant position in cross-strait relations."

— The report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China[2]
(October 16, 2022)

As early as September 12, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council issued the *Opinions on Supporting Fujian in Exploring New Paths for Cross-Strait Integrated Development and Building a Demonstration Zone for Cross-Strait Integrated Development* [3]. Within these opinions, one can see that the Party Central Committee places great importance on leveraging Fujian Province's unique role in the overall work related to Taiwan. Under the overall strategy of advancing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and amid profound changes unseen in a century, Fujian Province will serve as a major base for "deepening cross-strait integrated development and consolidating the foundation for peaceful reunification" by exploring new paths for cross-strait integrated development and building a demonstration zone, thereby launching a series of policies in the future. The Party Central Committee and the State Council both support efforts to try to turn Xiamen and Kinmen into a region of accelerated integrated development, so as to realize a kind of experimental zone where policy implementation can be carried out simultaneously.

Among these, several benefits are especially notable in the area of social welfare: for instance, Kinmen residents can enjoy treatment equal to that of local residents in Xiamen. From another perspective, we can also see that the opinions actually mention supporting the accelerated integrated development of Xiamen and Kinmen. They support Xiamen in launching comprehensive reform pilot projects and,

by means of batch-list authorization, grant Xiamen greater autonomy in reforms in key areas and critical links. This, in effect, is tantamount to declaring that in future cross-strait relations, the whole of Fujian Province will act as the important leading and connecting province for cross-strait relations, and Xiamen will play an even more critical role as a key. There are three main reasons for this: First, Xiamen is 2 kilometers away from Kinmen, and as long as the weather is good, the two can face each other across the sea. Such a close distance provides an absolutely excellent geographical foundation for building an exchange demonstration zone.

Second, the integration of living circles. As can be seen from the State Council's opinions, emphasis is placed on implementing the part about Kinmen residents enjoying treatment equal to that of local residents in Xiamen. This indicates that equal treatment advances the equalization, universalization, and convenience of basic public services [4]. On one hand, it also signals the promotion of the concept of forging an integrated living circle between Xiamen and Kinmen, which deepens a kind of reciprocity and interaction at the livelihood and social levels. This interactive integration of living circles will be a cross-border reciprocity, encompassing the integration of the industrial, official, and academic sectors. In the academic sector in particular, we can see that Xiamen and Kinmen already have a certain degree of school-level exchanges, including inter-university scientific research cooperation and exchanges between Xiamen University and Kinmen University.

Third, there is the pre-existing infrastructure exchange between the two places. Xiamen and Kinmen have already achieved a certain degree of reciprocity and interaction in infrastructure, including the Mini Three Links as the main policy, which has driven and brought closer the distance between the people of the two places. On this foundation, deepening social convenience and mutual assistance at the livelihood level can more effectively and rapidly form a symbolic state of cross-strait integration, thereby achieving an advantage in bilateral cooperation. We can understand that this type of Twin-Gate cooperation and exchange zone is, in fact, also exploring a model for Xiamen and Kinmen to cooperate in co-building infrastructure,

accelerating the "six links" — electricity, gas, water, postal services, commerce, and transportation — in order to expand and support the flexible interactive space between Xiamen and Kinmen. Within the policy opinions, it is also visible that the central government supports Xiamen and Kinmen sharing Xiamen's new airport. This indicates that in the future, not only will there be popularization at the social level, but people-to-people exchanges and interactions will also achieve a certain degree of deepened exchange through this kind of expanded infrastructure cooperation.

In other words, the establishment of the Xiamen-Kinmen Twin-Gate exchange demonstration zone has an extremely high policy foundation. Cong Liang, Deputy Director of the National Development and Reform Commission, specifically pointed out in the *People's Daily* [3]:

- Promoting integration through connectivity: Advance the construction of transportation and logistics infrastructure ahead of time, and promote the realization of all necessary links between Fujian and Taiwan.
- Promoting integration through benefits: Facilitate living on the ground, expand social participation, and optimize the business environment related to Taiwan.
- Promoting integration through emotional bonds: Deepen cultural and people-to-people exchanges and cooperation, and support normalized exchanges among non-governmental organizations and religious circles.

It is not difficult to see that by shortening and optimizing geographical advantages, expanding infrastructure construction and social integration, and deepening cultural exchanges, Xiamen and Kinmen shoulder the important mission and task together. Expanding and integrating the living circles of the two places, and taking Xiamen and Kinmen as strongholds, this will extend to places such as Fuzhou and Matsu in the future, thereby forming an important milestone for deepening integrated development and accelerating the opening-up and development of the Pingtan Comprehensive Experimental Zone, as well as a practice of integrated development.

2.2 Focus within the Island

In fact, the concept of cooperation and collaboration between Xiamen and Kinmen has also received a

certain degree of attention and understanding within Taiwan Province, and there is considerable room for policy planning and policy exchange interactions. First, the surging international situation in the new era has made it clear to people all over the world that peace is precious and war is cruel, and no region wishes or wants to suffer the devastation of war, let alone compatriots and brothers who share the same culture and ethnicity. Due to its geographical location, Kinmen is even more capable of deeply realizing the zero distance in emotional exchanges and integration. As a front edge of cross-strait interaction, Kinmen inherently possesses the flexibility and advantages for cooperation, and most importantly, it can better highlight and express the imagery and construction of peace.

Second, there has been a general consensus in academic circles that, despite the existing plans for the implementation and planning of the Pingtan Practice Park, given the current state of cross-strait relations, which is cold at the official level but warm at the civilian level, there is a need for deeper, broader, more socialized, and more pan-popular methods to achieve bilateral exchanges. The existing state of non-governmental reciprocity and interaction between Kinmen and Xiamen is already very frequent. In the future, it only needs to be continuously deepened to further achieve mutual benefit, which is something the academic community is happy to see.

Third, the officials on both sides have actually shown a new tacit understanding and imagery. The support opinions issued this time by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council emphasize focusing on the co-creation of the Xiamen-Kinmen living circle. On one hand, this plays a very good lubricating role, providing a buffer space for all sectors on both sides. On the other hand, it also signals that the central government has declared its emphasis on cross-strait relations and that the intensity of its promotion is gradually increasing. On a third front, in the Taiwan region, candidates for the leadership of Taiwan Province can also realize the importance of establishing the Xiamen-Kinmen living circle. How is this reflected? Looking at recent related news, we can find that candidates from the Kuomintang (KMT), independent candidates, and the emerging Taiwan

People's Party have all made related statements, or even declarations of intent, revolving around the Kinmen area. This further lays the foundation for the feasibility of establishing a key demonstration zone for co-management and co-creation exchanges between the two places in the future.

Hou Yu-ih, the KMT candidate for the leadership election of the Taiwan region, who is himself of Fujian descent, has stated multiple times that based on the shared culture and ethnicity across the strait, Kinmen should serve as the entry point for cross-strait exchanges in the future, building a solid bridge for cross-strait exchanges to achieve peace in the Taiwan Strait. He thus proposed the "Six Major Kinmen Policies" [5], and at the same time publicly declared his support for a referendum to build the so-called "Kinmen-Xiamen Peace Bridge" between Kinmen and Xiamen. Among these, the imagery of building the Peace Bridge, if placed in the political history of cross-strait relations, would represent a brand-new milestone once completed. This is also a policy led first by a political figure from the Taiwan region, proposing the construction of a common facility in a peace-oriented manner. It is a policy that simultaneously integrates the symbolic significance of peace, political imagery, and civilian economic imagery, bearing tremendous symbolic meaning. Furthermore, among the six major policies, deepening infrastructure construction is also proposed. As early as 2018, water supply between Kinmen and Quanzhou was already connected. Under this livelihood policy over the past five years, it can be found that residents in the Kinmen area within Taiwan Province, in particular, are truly no longer suffering from water shortages. This kind of policy can resolve livelihood issues on one hand, and on the other hand, can also focus on long-term economic development, playing a very important role as a cornerstone for two-way cooperation.

In addition to the existing water supply, in the future, when Kinmen serves as a key component of the Xiamen-Kinmen living circle, it will not only be an important area for cross-strait consultations but also host more living space. If deepened, it will be able to connect the possibilities of power and natural gas engineering projects between Kinmen and Xiamen. This is also an important indicator of KMT candidate Hou Yu-ih's proposal to build Kinmen into

a cross-strait economic and trade demonstration zone in the future, pinning hopes on creating Kinmen as a crucial transportation hub that not only ensures stable livelihoods, postal services, commerce, water, electricity, and gas between Xiamen, but also serves as an important hub for cross-strait personnel movement, passenger flow, and cargo flow, while simultaneously establishing a cross-strait cultural transmission framework, an audio-visual cultural city, and a joint cross-strait medical specialty zone. This incrementally forms an integrated living circle.

Therefore, his main policies specifically mention that in the future, if cross-strait preferential policies are implemented, not only will restrictions on personnel and cargo entry and exit be relaxed, and preferential tax reduction and exemption policies expanded, but port facilities and capacity will also be expanded. In the area of the cross-strait medical specialty zone, priority will be given to promoting emergency and critical care medical facilities. Additionally, the establishment and development of universal bilateral health checks, investment in medical aesthetics, and deepened exchanges and cooperation in medical industries such as biotechnology will be promoted. Moreover, based on the foundation of the "five links," not only infrastructure exchanges, Xiamen and Kinmen can become key hubs for cultivating talents for research on cross-strait peaceful development. Hopes are also pinned on resuming bilateral degree studies in the future, expanding exchanges of exchange students and research students, thereby attracting new enterprises from both sides of the strait to settle in and form a startup ecosystem. This shows that the perspective of the KMT coincides perfectly with the intention and policy promotion of the central government and the State Council, which looks forward to and promotes the construction of the Xiamen-Kinmen living circle cooperation.

In addition to the KMT, Terry Gou, the founder of Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., Ltd. (Foxconn), who previously actively sought the KMT nomination to run for the leadership of Taiwan Province, has now, as an independent, proposed the *Kinmen Peace Declaration* specifically for the construction of the Kinmen area [6,7]. Its main body proposes adhering to the so-called principle of "one China, respective interpretations" – that is, under the 1992 Consensus

– to restart negotiations with the mainland and to make Kinmen a new permanent negotiation venue for the two sides of the strait. This fully demonstrates that the construction and integration of the Xiamen-Kinmen area possess urgency, demand, a forward-looking nature, and most importantly, a consensus-driven nature. If the key demonstration zone for cross-strait exchanges between Xiamen and Kinmen is successfully established in the future, it will not only bring enormous benefits to Kinmen, but will also greatly drive Fujian Province. Under bilateral cooperation, on one hand, it can strengthen the transshipment of personnel and cargo from the Xiamen-Kinmen area to Southeast Asia and South Asia. On the other hand, it can also expand the base for bilateral exchanges and deepened non-governmental cooperation. In the future, it will involve non-scheduled charter flights to and from various countries in Southeast Asia and beyond, as well as overseas compatriots returning home to invest and build, which will not only form cultural inheritance but also attract international tourists. This will carry immense symbolic significance for peace and serve as a declaration of its value, truly achieving joint creation and win-win outcomes.

III. THE CRUCIAL NATURE AMIDST CHANGING TIMES

3.1 Characteristics in the Era of Youth

A large part of Kinmen's history evokes images of war. Indeed, from the period of Japanese occupation, Kinmen experienced Japan's occupation during World War II and the devastation of artillery fire during the Chinese Civil War. Before the Japanese occupation, during the Ming and Qing dynasties, Kinmen was under the jurisdiction of Xiamen. In the 25th year of the Hongwu reign, the Ming Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang established a "Thousand-Household Guard Post" on the island and appointed Marquis of Jiangxia, Zhou Dexing, to build fortifications for defense. Because of its posture of being "as solid as a golden soup and commanding the sea gate like a mighty stronghold," it was named "Kinmen" (Golden Gate) [8]. From this, one can see that Kinmen was already an important coastal defense stronghold at that time. Following the Japanese occupation and the War of Resistance Against Japan, it then experienced the Battle of Guningtou after the Nationalist government relocated to Taiwan in 1949. This battle

had a decisive impact on the division across the strait. After this battle, the conflict between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party continued, and artillery attacks on Kinmen persisted until 1979, when the then Minister of National Defense of the PRC, Xu Xiangqian, issued the "Statement on Ceasing the Shelling of Greater and Lesser Kinmen and Other Islands." Only then did Kinmen end nearly three decades of artillery devastation. During these thirty years, it sustained many artillery attacks, including the famous 1958 Kinmen Battle (the August 23 Artillery Battle), the smaller-scale June 17 and June 19 artillery battles of 1960, and later the so-called "fire on odd-numbered days, no fire on even-numbered days" pattern... After this thirty-year war experience, and following the conclusion of ancient garrison military history, the two sides across the strait maintained a period of cold peace. On February 7, 1993, cross-strait tourism was opened, and finally, in 2000, the Mini Three Links were opened. Only then did Kinmen's fate as a battlefield truly and completely end. It has been nearly 23 years since the implementation of the Kinmen-Xiamen Mini Three Links, whose greatest symbolic significance was ending Kinmen's destiny as a war journey and bringing the two sides of the strait closer.

Removing the backdrop of war, another special cultural story many people think of is the Wind Lion God. There are several accounts of the origin of the Wind Lion God, such as suppressing wind, suppressing illness, suppressing the sea, warding off evil spirits, protecting feng shui, and controlling ant damage, among others. This paper identifies three more widely accepted explanations. First, as Kinmen had long suffered from sandstorms brought by strong northeast monsoons, with no trees to block the wind, this wind harm from the northeast monsoon was considered "wind evil" by the ancestors. Left with no choice, they placed Wind Lion Gods at wind-facing road junctions, hoping to suppress the wind. Another account suggests that, due to underdeveloped medical care in early Kinmen and fear of various diseases or unknown miasmas, the Wind Lion Gods were erected to intimidate natural and man-made disasters, serving as a spiritual anchor. The third holds that the Wind Lion God is a deity governing borders and thus possesses the function of expelling demons and monsters

attempting to invade the territory [9]. Whatever the reason, sculptures of the Wind Lion God can be seen in many places across Kinmen today, bringing enormous tourism benefits to the island.

From the two background descriptions above, it can be understood that Kinmen possesses an extremely unique battlefield culture and folk culture (the Wind Lion God culture). Against this cultural background, the local economic and cultural benefits are very substantial. Kinmen's development itself is built upon these unique cultures. For example, the stationing of large numbers of troops during wartime inadvertently created an economic cycle, and military installations have now become key tourist attractions [10]. To cater to garrison troops of different regional origins, Kinmen, building on its original Minnan cuisine, developed its own distinctive culinary specialties such as Guangdong-style congee, beef feasts, noodle dishes (sliced noodles, stir-fried instant noodles, dry-tossed noodles), and Kinmen Kaoliang Liquor, all part of battlefield-style meals. The public distillery established by Hu Lian, Commander of the Kinmen Defense Command of the Army (concurrently Chairman of the Fujian Provincial Government) during wartime, is also the predecessor of today's Kinmen Distillery [11]. Through thirty years of artillery battle history, many shell casings have now been forged into artillery shell steel knives. All these testify to the considerable economic benefits brought by the historical and cultural backdrop of war. Today, Kinmen Kaoliang Liquor and Kinmen knives have long been famous far and wide, becoming two major specialty products highly favored by tourists.

3.2 Characteristics in the Era of Youth

3.2.1 Traits and Predicaments of the Youth Generation

The youth generation differs from other generations. In a 1995 work, scholar Hsiao Hsin-Huang defined youth as: pursuing trends, full of creativity, knowing how to earn money and also loving to spend it [12]. However, with changes in times and environment, the global youth after the millennium face four major predicaments: 1. soaring unemployment rates; 2. stagnant wages; 3. soaring housing and commodity prices; 4. retirement systems more favorable to the elderly [13]. This has caused the greatest characteristic of today's youth to shift toward more pragmatic and utilitarian thinking, with having a job

and being able to earn money becoming their main goals. Research by scholars Furlong & Cartmel points out that an increasing number of young laborers are trapped in minimum-wage jobs and poorer job security [14]. Scholars Lin Shu-Hui and Huang Liang-Chih also pointed out in their study that those with college and university degrees value "intrinsic rewards" and "collective interests" [15], attaching importance to the value of "peace and harmony" which includes livelihood security and harmonious interpersonal relationships. We can understand that today's youth still pursue trends, are full of creativity, and know how to enjoy life, but more prominently, they possess the trait of pragmatic and utilitarian thinking.

3.2.2 Supporting Exchanges Through Cultural Creativity

In recent years, youth in Taiwan have shown an enthusiasm for engaging in cultural and creative, and micro-entrepreneurial types of ventures [16]. According to the 2014 report of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM), the proportion of Taiwanese people who want to start a business is 27%, more than double the international average (10%). Among those aged 18 to 34 with entrepreneurial intentions, the figure is as high as 49.8%, with entrepreneurial intent ranking second among innovation-driven economies, higher than Japan, South Korea, and the mainland.

The enormous market appeal of the mainland makes many young people willing to go there for exchanges, with economic benefits becoming the best focal point for attracting youth. Yet, aside from economic incentives, culture is also a major draw for exchanges. Unlike pure economics, cultural influence relies on experience and feeling, and under cultural influence, other linked incentives can also emerge. Purely economic allure might unilaterally attract people only if the position is good and the salary is high; however, once the environmental state changes and the cost of living rises, the advantage disappears.

Culture, on the other hand, can be combined with tourism, internships, creativity, marketing, and other means, paired with support measures, to create attraction. This not only allows exchange participants to experience culture but also carries incidental economic incentives within it, which will not lose their attraction due to the disappearance or change of

variables. Under the trend of globalization, the importance of distinctive cultural and creative products is increasingly recognized, and countries worldwide are actively developing such products. Under this trend, combining culture with tourism and internships in a supportive package, through the promotion of cultural creativity and even the aid of youth entrepreneurship, can not only effectively enable cultural inheritance but also attract cross-strait youth to come for exchanges, and more effectively enhance economic development and create employment opportunities.

3.2.3 Cultural and Creative Industries

Countries around the world have been promoting cultural and creative industries since 1997, which often overlap with mass culture and popular arts, including pop music, film and television dramas, merchandise, etc. The popularity of Korean dramas and mainland Chinese dramas is a successful example of the cultural and creative industry. Scholars Hsieh Ming-Jui and Shen Shu-Hui mentioned: generally speaking, the cultural and creative industry embodies the concept of integrated marketing, commonly conducted through far-reaching online platforms such as Facebook, Weibo, YouTube, and TikTok. The marketing method determines the success of the cultural and creative industry, reflecting that the essence of the industry lies in: (Culture + Creativity) Marketing = Wealth [17]. The youth generation is also called the internet generation. For youth, the virtual world holds even greater appeal; for instance, technology-infused 3D or VR scenario simulations are more attractive to young people than live-guided tours.

Therefore, when youth engage in cross-strait exchanges, the greatest opportunity and development space lie in the fact that they are at a stage where their political socialization attitudes are becoming crystallized. Their important political attitudes are not yet fixed, and they bear less historical baggage, complemented by facing the critical stage of their own career development. Moreover, with greater adeptness in using internet technology, young people, during the exchange process, are less affected by factors other than economic interests and can view cross-strait relations more pragmatically. Through exchange and cooperation, hostility can be reduced, mutual

understanding enhanced, the degree of connection between the two sides increased, and the best development platforms and tools, such as cultural creativity and the internet, can be harnessed. In this regard, cross-strait youth exchanges can certainly further enhance the possibility of peace and cooperation across the strait, while also bringing business opportunities and turning points in the process of exchange.

IV. KEY POINTS OF THE TWIN-GATE EXCHANGE DEMONSTRATION ZONE

4.1 Cultural Inheritance

Multiple studies have pointed out that Kinmen's culture, customs, and specialty products generate extremely high interest among tourists, yet diverse marketing methods are still needed to attract tourists to visit repeatedly. Kinmen's Wind Lion God culture and battlefield culture bring tremendous tourism benefits, and in the future, the greatest emphasis should be placed on developing and inheriting these two cultures through cultural and creative means, especially by integrating them with exchanges involving the youth generation, which will yield even greater benefits [18,19]. Kinmen's existing resource is precisely its tourism capacity. If, through official encouragement, not only can tourism itineraries targeting youth and cultural experiences be actively established, but youth entrepreneurship can also be encouraged to develop in Kinmen. The entrepreneurial momentum sparked during youth exchanges can further stimulate more cultural and creative marketing, allowing young people to find the seeds of culture amidst travel, entrepreneurship, and internships. Therefore, in the future, Kinmen and Xiamen can attempt to focus on and promote the following three areas:

4.1.1 Cultural and Creative Development of Battlefield Culture

Kinmen's battlefield culture is unique in the world. The current generation of youth has absolutely never experienced war, and Kinmen's cultural background precisely provides them with the best setting to understand and experience battlefield life. Cultural and creative products can thus be designed with youth as the primary consumer target, incorporating attribute associations with battlefield culture while simultaneously including youthful elements, thereby increasing young people's interest in Kinmen's

battlefield culture. For instance, the steel knives made from artillery shells, though possessing practical utility and containing elements of battlefield culture, are not very likely to be used by today's youth. They could be transformed into letter openers, small knives, and the like, so that the cultural and creative products can not only attract the youth demographic but still retain cultural significance, becoming unique battlefield tourism souvenirs [20].

4.1.2 Cultural and Creative Development of Folk Culture

Due to Kinmen's special geographical location, situated midway between Fujian and the main island of Taiwan (and even closer to the mainland), combined with its historical background since the Ming and Qing dynasties, Kinmen preserves a substantial amount of Minnan beliefs and values. The unique Minnan Wind Lion God culture allows for the design of cultural and creative products incorporating commodity elements with Minnan charm, which will more readily appeal to young people from the mainland. Young people from Taiwan can also gain a deeper understanding of Minnan-style folk beliefs and values, thereby more effectively promoting youth exchanges and multi-layered cultural interactions. For example, merely designing a Wind Lion God charm or similar item may be of limited effectiveness. Not only must products be diversified, but they should also incorporate different characteristics and regional features, which would not only reflect Kinmen's uniqueness but also incidentally highlight regional cultural differences. Transforming this into postcards featuring different architectural styles of Minnan and Kinmen, or postcards of different types and from different places of Wind Lion Gods, can enhance youth interest in folk beliefs and accelerate the transmission of folk culture to the youth.

4.1.3 Cultural and Creative Development of the Internet and Cuisine

As the Book of Han states, "Food is the paramount necessity of the people." Cuisine holds appeal for any age group. In Kinmen's case, although the Kinmen Distillery is famous far and wide, it does not necessarily hold strong appeal for the youth generation. Therefore, agricultural and sideline products such as Kaoliang liquor and peanut candy also need to target the youth, launching and

developing different products, such as introducing beverages exclusive to Kinmen, or designing packaging that combines culture with existing beverages. This way, besides attracting young people and enhancing their understanding of the culture, it also allows them to experience the special dietary culture of direct sales from the place of origin. Secondly, in response to the internet generation, the best way to simultaneously enhance Kinmen's appeal is to make Kinmen's image known to more people. This can be done by filming idol dramas set in Kinmen, inviting singers to write songs and film music videos, shooting advertisements for the distillery and battlefield culture, or designing games set against Kinmen's historical backdrop. All of these are sufficient to enable people to more quickly develop an understanding of and interest in Kinmen's artifacts and history, particularly by more easily targeting the youth demographic, thereby greatly increasing the likelihood of visiting Kinmen for leisure and cultural experiences. Ultimately, under the influence of this dual cultural immersion, people can develop more profound impressions.

4.2 Expanding People-to-People Exchange Programs

In the future, building upon the foundation of the "Mini Three Links," the active role played in promoting cross-strait people-to-people exchanges should be continued, focusing efforts on the following three programs:

4.2.1 Economic and Trade Cooperation

A broader layout should be considered. Since bilateral economy and trade possess a certain degree of homogeneity, cooperation and integration can be carried out in some industrial sectors. Additionally, complementary industries can also attempt industrial transformation. To a certain extent, it is necessary to formulate and introduce policy measures for Fujian-Taiwan consultation and the deployment of optimized market access, reducing trade barriers and access risks, and opening up collaboration for specific complementary industries. Furthermore, pilot free trade trials should be set up targeting the Fujian-Taiwan region, thereby creating a framework for unimpeded systems and policies for Fujian-Taiwan economic and trade cooperation.

4.2.2 Infrastructure and Energy Resources

Between Xiamen and Kinmen, the framework of the Mini Three Links already exists. Looking at transportation construction, the transportation

network between Xiamen and Kinmen has long been mature and well-established. This provides and lays a good early foundation for future co-constructed transportation between the two gates, as well as the engineering and technical capabilities to connect communication channels between Fujian and Taiwan, facilitating the creation of cross-strait infrastructure connectivity. Moreover, in order to achieve comprehensive connectivity in postal services, commerce, water, electricity, and other areas, the two sides can establish exploration into energy cooperation. In particular, the mainland has built and possesses the world's largest energy network, and green energy is a major area where the two sides can attempt cooperation and transformation in technology and energy. Specifically, future models related to hydropower, wind power, photovoltaic power, and solar power, coupled with the mainland's existing long-distance power transmission and transformation capabilities, can not only create conditions for the large-scale transmission of green electricity to Kinmen and even the main island of Taiwan. The two sides can jointly promote the development and application of cross-strait green energy transformation.

4.2.3 Common Industry Standards

The main focus of the key exchange demonstration zone should be on advancing common standards across the strait, establishing a framework from the institutional and structural levels. In the future, the two sides need to negotiate and intensify efforts to frame and construct the commonality of cross-strait standards. This indicates that, to a certain extent, standards also need to be set in areas such as law, logistics, and other non-traditional security domains. Furthermore, while negotiating common standards, multifunctional services and standardized service guidelines should also be provided for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, as well as youth entrepreneurship. This will enable the various livelihood and commercial interactions within the Twin-Gate living circle to further achieve common standards, thereby realizing the sharing and exchange of standards information.

"People from all walks of life across the strait have long yearned for the direct connectivity of cross-strait infrastructure. We must work together to realize the dream of people on both sides of the strait easily crossing the Taiwan Strait by high-speed rail at an early date, and to

facilitate more goods from the Taiwan region reaching Eurasian markets smoothly via the China-Europe Railway Express and other means, so as to better benefit compatriots on both sides of the strait."

—National Development and Reform Commission
(September 14, 2023)

V. CONCLUSION

The feasibility of building a key demonstration zone for cross-strait exchanges between Xiamen and Kinmen, as well as expanding the Xiamen-Kinmen exchange living circle, is a complex process that requires comprehensive consideration and precise planning at multiple levels and from multiple perspectives. Its feasibility and implementation effects need to weigh multiple factors, including politics, economy, society, culture, and time. However, once the Xiamen-Kinmen Twin-Gate experimental living circle is established in the future, its main body will certainly be based on the following three advantages: 1. Geographical proximity — the two-kilometer geographical distance between the two gates provides excellent innate conditions for cross-strait exchanges and the integration of the living circle, fully demonstrating the advantages of a closer exchange mechanism. 2. Economic complementarity and integration of regulatory mechanisms — the economic characteristics and complementarity of the Xiamen and Kinmen areas enhance economic exchanges in multiple aspects such as trade, investment, and industrial cooperation, strengthening the momentum of economic interflow and exchange development between the two places. Moreover, the existing Mini Three Links framework and the consistency of standard systems have also created considerable negotiation space for the implementation of laws, regulations, and standard systems, as well as the execution of relevant service systems for the two places. 3. Policy and public support — looking at the existing policies and conditions on both sides, it is fully evident that both the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the policy platforms of future candidates for the leadership of Taiwan Province attach a certain degree of importance and policy support, and there is a certain level of consensus on aspects such as non-governmental interaction, infrastructure, and facilitation measures,

which plays a key role in attracting enterprises and talent to both places.

Kinmen's unique historical and cultural background can not only bring economic benefits to Fujian and Taiwan but also significantly enhance the possibility of peaceful development across the strait. The important implication that (Culture + Creativity) × Marketing = Wealth holds a certain appeal for young people. Since the political sensitivity and political socialization attitudes of youth have not yet been fully formed or are still in the trial stage, although youth are the mainstay of the entire generation's future development, they are also more inclined to view matters from a pragmatic and utilitarian perspective, with fewer extra considerations and limitations, and much less historical baggage. Given these characteristics, young people will prudently consider their own career development. Therefore, moderate exchanges not only help reduce hostility and enhance mutual understanding but also provide opportunities to further advance the possibility of cross-strait peace.

On this basis, by combining Kinmen's special background and geographical location, encouraging and catalyzing youth generation exchanges, and engaging in cultural and creative endeavors targeting history and culture, even youth entrepreneurship, to guide young people to integrate into the environment, this can not only effectively enable the transmission of Kinmen's culture and facilitate multicultural interactions when youths across the strait interact, but will ultimately make Kinmen a pioneer for the peaceful development of cross-strait relations, jointly built upon the five flows — the flow of people, the flow of goods, the flow of capital, the flow of finance, and the flow of culture — in a true sense.

Therefore, this paper draws four conclusions: First, the preservation and documentation of battlefield culture allow the public, while reflecting on history, to feel and cherish the beauty of peace; second, exchanges and interactions foster goodwill and are of certain help in eliminating hostility; third, combining Kinmen's unique culture with the youth's preference for cultural and creative characteristics — if more cultural and creative bases can be established and enterprises guided to invest — can generate more economic benefits and tourism value; fourth,

through youth exchanges, Kinmen can not only pass on its culture but also become a testing ground for cross-strait peace.

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